



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WARRENSBURG DEALER SENTENCED FOR \$368,000 FRAUD AGAINST JOHN DEERE

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a former equipment dealer in Warrensburg, Mo., was sentenced in federal court today for a \$368,000 scheme to defraud John Deere.

David E. Roberts, 57, of Warrensburg, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Chief Judge Dean Whipple this afternoon to one year and three months in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Roberts** to pay \$368,703 in restitution.

Roberts owned Roberts Equipment in Warrensburg and was an authorized dealer of John Deere equipment. On Nov. 20, 2003, **Roberts** pleaded guilty to a scheme to defraud John Deere. Each of the six counts of a federal information charges **Roberts** with a separate act of wire fraud in furtherance of his scheme to defraud John Deere, which lasted from November 1997 through Dec. 11, 1998.

Roberts admitted that he e-mailed false reports and mailed copies of false sales invoices and false purchase orders to John Deere, claiming that equipment had been sold and that, as part of the sale, there was a trade-in of other equipment. As a result, Graves explained, **Roberts** reduced his payment obligation to John Deere on the sale of the new equipment and delayed payment of the amount owed until the false trade-in equipment was sold, or for up to six months.

When **Roberts** sold or reported the sale of new or used equipment, instead of paying John Deere the amount due under the terms of a financing agreement, he created false trade-ins to offset the amount of the payment due John Deere for the sale. **Roberts** admitted that he failed to report sales of new equipment and failed to pay John Deere the amount due for new equipment sales.

When John Deere representatives visited Roberts Equipment to verify inventory, Graves

said, **Roberts** falsely represented that inventory had been sold, was out on loan or on rental, was being used as demonstrators, or for some other reason was not then present at the dealership.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Linda Parker Marshall. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow